

'Band of Brothers' vets visit Vilseck

Easy Co. Soldiers spend quality time with Stryker troops

Story and photo by JODI WARD

Staff writer

Several original members of the famed 101st Airborne Division's "Easy Company" (506th Parachute Infantry Regiment) capped off a week-long tour of overseas military bases with a visit to Vilseck Sept. 25.

The World War II veterans, who were immortalized in Stephan Ambrose's bestselling novel "Band of Brothers" and the Steven Spielberg/Tom Hanks HBO mini-series by the same name, dined with U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr Soldiers, and talked to the troops about everything from war experiences and hometown news to Major League Baseball standings.

War Eagles

After lunch at the Stryker Inn, Easy Company vets Herbert Suerth, Roderick Bain, William Maynard, Edward James Tipper, Frank Joseph Soboleski, Henry Zimmerman, Amos "Buck" Taylor, Edward Joint, and Forrest "Goody" Guth were made honorary "War Eagles" during a ceremony hosted by the 2d Stryker Cavalry Regiment.

"We really appreciate you being here today," said 1st Squadron Commander Capt. Daniel Barnett. "A lot of these Soldiers have read "Band of Brothers" and that's what we strive to be in this organization—a tight band of brothers. So when called upon, we can all rely on each other, just as you all did so many years ago."

"Everything you see here, everything we do here, is only possible because of your sacrifice and service," he said.

Easy Company's Herbert Suerth expressed his pride in visiting the 1st Squadron Soldiers, who serve their country as he and his comrades did in WWII. He said how humbling it is for the men of Easy Company to be so widely recognized for their service.

Just another group of guys

"Up until the HBO series, we were just another group of guys," said Suerth. "Just remember, there were a thousand other rifle



"You've been to Iraq and you had to wear this sucker?" asked WWII veteran Roderick Bain of 2SCR's Sgt. James Williams while trying on Williams' body armor vest Sept. 25

companies that served like us around the world.

"They were all very good, and it just so happened that a guy by the name of Steven Ambrose was the friend of a family in our group, and the book came about," he said. "Of course, the rest is history. It's very humbling to receive the accolades and sometimes we feel very self conscious about it."

WWII historian Steve Ambrose traces Easy Company from its earliest days in basic training to Utah Beach on D-Day, onto the Battle of the Bulge and their liberation of part of the Dachau concentration camp.

Drawing on interviews, journals, and letters, the novel describes the grueling experiences the combat paratroopers faced. To date, the book and movie have received numerous awards, including several Emmys and Golden Globes.

After the ceremony, 2SCR Soldiers mingled with the Easy Company vets, got autographs, pictures, and gave the visitors a tour of the Stryker vehicles.

"It's so great to be able to talk to these guys," said Cpl. Brian Smith of 1st Squadron, 4th Infantry Division.

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Child care costs in Europe increase

No fee change for lowest-income families

Staff report

The Installation Management Agency-Europe Morale, Welfare and Recreation Division has announced Child and Youth Services program fee adjustments will take effect Nov. 1 for all communities in Europe.

CYS fees are reviewed annually and adjusted to comply with current Department of Defense Child Development Program fee ranges based on income levels.

"This is only the second increase in the past four years," said Garrison Grafenwoehr's CYS chief Anita Payne.

"Costs continue to rise, particularly the salaries of our direct care staff. The Department of the Army funds 25 percent of our staffing costs, and parents pay 75 percent," explained Payne. "The majority of CYS employees are military spouses, so the fees are really going back into our community in the form of salaries for those spouses."

Payne said the CYS requires the staff to complete intensive training programs and needs to be able to compensate them adequately.

The fee adjustments are being made to ensure child-care costs are equitable for all families based on total family income. This means that each family pays approximately the same percentage of its total family income, about 10 percent for full-day care.

Only Category I families pay significantly less—about 8 percent of total family income for those families earning \$28,000 or less per year. The scale is based on total family income (including wages and allowances, but without cost-of-living allowance/post allowance), not on rank or grade.

There will be no fee increase for Category 1 for either full-day child care or before- and after-school care. These families will continue to pay

See **DESPITE** Page 16

Hit the slopes with local ski club

by JODI WARD

Staff writer

Living in Germany certainly has its benefits.

Among them are the history, world renowned beer, and first-rate skiing.

For area residents who can't wait to strap on the skis or snowboard and hit the slopes, the wait is over.

The Bavarian Ski Club, open to residents of Grafenwoehr, Vilseck, and Hohenfels, is kicking off the 2006 season this weekend.

With six trips planned for this season—five to Austria and one to Italy—members have the opportunity to ski a different Alpine wonderland during each of the club's weekend getaways.

The club's first destination is the annual Columbus Day ski test weekend at Soelden, Austria. Since 1997, European-based American ski clubs have gathered here, where each year skiers and boarders are able to test the newest and most advanced ski equipment on the market.

"I am most looking forward to the kickoff, the Soelden trip," said club

member Renate Neaverth. "They test the latest and the greatest skis, snowboards, shoes, and that's what we do. For three days we can test all the different equipment."

As for the other five trips planned for this season, club member Monica

Mulkeen said they are each great locations with excellent skiing for all levels. And as a wife and mother of three, she said the convenience is what she enjoys most about the club.

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Courtesy photo

Bavarian Ski Club members JD, 14; Will, 11; and Erin Mulkeen, 13, pose before hitting the slopes in Flachau, Austria last year.

Flu vaccine arriving soon No shortages expected this year

European Regional Medical Command

Army health clinics and hospitals in Europe will begin immunizing TRICARE beneficiaries against the flu beginning Oct. 15, according to senior officials from the Europe Regional Medical Command headquartered in Heidelberg.

The first two weeks of the immunization program this year will focus on providing the vaccine to deployed or deploying Soldiers and civilians and high-risk individuals. As more shipments arrive in theater, the program will expand to cover all TRICARE beneficiaries who receive care in Army medical treatment facilities in Europe. The ERMIC goal is to provide the vaccine to everyone eligible by the end of December.

"This year the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta recommend the

vaccine for infants from six to 59 months of age," said Dr. (Lt. Col.) Robert A. Smith, ERMIC Pediatrics consultant. "I would strongly urge parents to seek the immunization for their children, since infants in that age group are more likely to develop severe

For more Info

Visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Web site to find out how you can help prevent the spread of flu: www.cdc.gov

health problems should they contract the flu. Also, young children are usually the carriers of influenza into families and by immunizing them, we help protect the entire household."

Immunizations are the first line of defense against the flu,

according to another ERMIC expert. According to Dr. (Lt. Col.) Bill Corr, ERMIC Epidemiology consultant, immunizations are especially effective this time of year.

"As we approach the winter months, people spend more time

See **FLU SHOTS** Page 16

Q&A

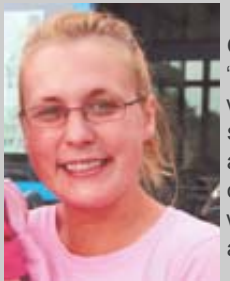
Should children wear *Halloween* costumes?



Bill Atterberry
"Sure. I have absolutely no objections. I have three grown daughters and three grandchildren and I think it's perfectly okay."



Mecca Green
"Yes, I think it's okay. Kids have fun dressing up, and it's all about kids having fun."



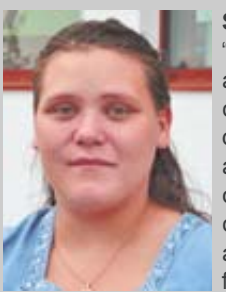
Cristen Bland
"I think what kids wear for Halloween should be moderated. They should only be allowed to wear costumes that are in good taste."



Marinell Carrothers
"I don't particularly like demonic-like costumes. It's not my favorite holiday, but it's okay with me if others allow their children to dress up."



Kristen Botsford
"If the costumes are cutesy, if they're just for fun, then I think it's okay."



Samantha Hall
"Well, I'm Christian and Halloween is considered the devil's holiday. I also feel that many of the Halloween costumes today are inappropriate for children."



Lt. Matthew Wernert
"Absolutely! I love Halloween."



Pvt. Chris Johnson
"I think it's okay. Dressing up for Halloween is an American tradition. I'll be more than happy to have candy at my door for kids who want to dress up."

Command Message

CDC, CYS rate increases only second in Europe in four years

I have lots of information to put out, so let's get right to it.

New CDC/ CYS Rates

Many of you have probably already heard that Child Development and Child Youth Services rates will rise Nov. 1.

While no one likes to pay more for a service, the rate increases are relatively small and, for the most part, are less than CONUS-based CDC/ CYS rates.

Personnel who use CDC are divided into six categories based on their total family income (not rank). Rate increases are as follows:

- Cat 1 = no change rate set by DoD
- Cat 2 = 2%
- Cat 3 = 5%
- Cat 4 = 10%
- Cat 5 = 15%
- Cat 6 = 16%

In real terms this means an increase of \$10-36 per month for those in CAT 2-4. (44 percent of CYS customers). With respect to CYS rates, most sports will increase \$6 while Category C (tackle football) will increase by \$24.

Some additional thoughts follow: Most military CDC and SAs either have or



continually work at accreditation while only 10 percent of similar stateside facilities are accredited. Further, patrons pay less than half the cost to run these facilities (we all subsidized), with taxpayers pick up the remaining cost.

Finally, similar U.S. civilian facilities costs are often triple the cost of care in Europe. Again, no one likes to pay more for a service but this is only the second raise in Europe in the past four years and on balance, our programs provide quality child care at an affordable rate.

Bus Shuttle Routes

I'd like to thank the 41st Transportation Company and the 2d Stryker Cavalry Regiment for their assistance in the expanded shuttle service we ran this summer. They provided drivers that allowed the program to operate. Without their help, we would not have been able to increase the number of routes or the number of run times.

As expected, the use of the expanded routes has dropped, and we will revert back to our previous more limited shuttle service. For details, please refer to the most recent community e-newsletter.

Fire Prevention Week

The second week of October is National Fire Prevention Week. The theme this year, "Prevent Cooking Fires: Watch What you

Heat," emphasizing that more fires start in the kitchen than in any other part of the home.

Unattended cooking fires are the No. 1 source of fires and damage in IMA-Europe, and we have recently had two fires caused by inattentive cooking. I ask everyone to participate in safe fire practices like family fire response and fire drills this week, and don't forget to include your children.

Let's treat fire with the appropriate amount of respect and help avoid needless tragedies.

Force Protection Exercise

The USAG Grafenwoehr/ Hohenfels Anti-Terrorism/ Force Protection Exercise will be held the weekend of Oct. 14. Centered around the high school, most events will occur on Saturday morning. As I am a player, I cannot tell you more of the scenario but wanted to inform you that German volunteers will be participating in the event so expect sirens and increased vehicular traffic during the exercise.

Major League playoffs are upon us and on "any given weekend" a college football upset can happen. As always, the garrison staff works to make this the best place to live and serve in Europe.

*Col. Brian T. Boyle
Commander, U.S. Army
Garrison Grafenwoehr*

Military Spouses

Military's moving teens need real advice, truth



**JACEY
ECKHART**
On the Homefront

My sister said that after junior high she never had trouble fitting in at a new school. She smoked. All it took to get in with the smokers was a pack and a lighter.

Funny how they never mention that kind of information on any Web site devoted to moving teenagers. Not that we parents would want a Web site to state such a bald truth.

Instead we like the Web sites that offer ideas that we can buy into: buy your child an address book. Buy a journal for their feelings. Buy cell phone minutes. Buy a house with a room they'd like and allow them to decorate to their heart's content.

Our parental theory seems to be if you purchase the proper environment, then, by golly, your kids ought to be back on their feet after a move in two weeks. A month at the outside.

That isn't the way it works. It takes a hard six months for teens to fit in at a new school. But we parents don't want to know that. Maybe that is why there is so little solid advice available to teens and parents about moving.

Recently a parent sent me an address for a Department of Defense Web site called

MTOM—Military Teens on the Move (www.dod.mil/mtom). "There is a difference between the information kids want, and the kind adults think they want," she wrote.

So I checked out the site, encouraged at first that the DoD spent some coin on our teens. MTOM is organized, colorful, engaging and... empty. So empty.

If every military kid was a 13-year old girl soccer star with all the right clothes and a sparkling personality, this site might even be helpful. I know some kids like that, but not many. Certainly not most.

Instead the Web site is a check in the box in someone's job performance review, not a useful tool for real people. I can't imagine a teen using this Web site without feeling a lot worse about themselves and their experience.

The underlying assumption is that all a kid needs to fit into a new school is a positive attitude and a lot of eye contact. Does anyone believe that anymore? Does anyone believe that high school is more like "Happy Days" than "Mean Girls?"

For example, MTOM recommends that teens stay in touch with their old friends by cell phone, e-mail, IM. But when friends stop returning calls, these experts advise that the friends are probably just busy and not to take it too personally.

But that isn't all the way true. Teens have told me that two or three weeks after moving, they notice that their old friends aren't

interested in them anymore and start to drop them.

Even if the kid is trying to be really positive, their buds read the underlying reality: I have no life. I'm bored. I miss you. I'm lonely.

What no one tells these teens is that their friend's lives back home heal faster. They just do. The guys back home are like a mouthful of teeth with one extraction. The teen who just moved is a tooth looking for a new home.

I don't see why it would hurt to include a bit more reality in our advice to teens. Why don't we talk about cigarettes, drugs, alcohol, sex and other risky

“ Why don't we talk about cigarettes, drugs, alcohol, sex and other risky behaviors teens sometimes use to fit in? ”

behaviors teens sometimes use to fit in? Why don't we talk about strategies to get through lunchtime and that soul-sucking emptiness of a weekend?

The reason teens need their own Web site to deal with a move is because they are not children.

Parents can't fix what is wrong with them, but we can't leave them out there with no support.

We have to commit ourselves to providing information that acknowledges the reality of moving a teen—and stop doing whatever it takes to make ourselves feel better.

A military wife for 19 years, Jacey Eckhart is a syndicated columnist from CinCHouse.com (www.CinCHouse.com) and author of "The Homefront Club" (Naval Institute Press 2004).

AWAG kicks off 51st year, seeking area volunteers

Dear community members,

This year the American Women's Activities, Germany Organization is proud to celebrate 51 years of volunteer training with our 51st Annual Conference.

During this time, AWAG's mission has been to train, strengthen, and connect volunteers to organizations and their communities. We're hoping to have one of the best conferences with your support!

We are thrilled to represent the Oberpfalz area. We are busy planning this year's conference and

are proud to announce that it will be held at Hohenfels American High School Dec. 2.

We are relatively new to AWAG, however we have almost 40 years combined experience as military spouses. We have worked, led FRG's, been active on spouse club boards, volunteered in our schools and churches, and most importantly raised children while supporting our husband's military career.

We do know AWAG works very hard at

See AWAG Page 3

Bavarian News

Grafenwoehr • Hohenfels • Vilseck

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Intelligence estimate on terrorism released

President declassifies report, halts speculations after media leak

byJIM GARAMONE
American Forces Press Service

The number of people identifying themselves as jihadists is increasing and spreading, but the United States has still made significant progress against terrorists, according to a declassified National Intelligence Estimate.

The Office of the Director of National Intelligence yesterday released a declassified version of "Trends in Global Terrorism: Implications for the United States." The estimate is dated April 2006.

The estimate looks at the threats posed by terrorists to the United States and its interests over the next five years.

President Bush took the nearly unprecedented step of releasing the estimate following a leak to the media. Stories appeared in the New York Times and Washington Post

last week saying that the war in Iraq has increased the danger of terrorism to the United States.

Bush told Director of National Intelligence John Negroponte to declassify the key judgments of the report.

"You can read it for yourself," the president said Sept. 26 during a news conference with Afghan President Hamid Karzai. "We'll stop all the speculation, all the politics about somebody saying something about Iraq, somebody trying to confuse the American people about the nature of this enemy."

The estimate said that the global jihadist movement, including al Qaeda, is spreading and adapting to counterterrorism efforts. "If this trend continues, threats to U.S. interests at home and abroad will become more diverse, leading to increasing attacks worldwide," the estimate says.

The key passage in the estimate is that the

Iraq conflict has become the "cause celebre" for jihadists. The estimate says U.S. efforts in Iraq have bred deep distrust in the Muslim world and that jihadists are using the conflict to recruit new members. "Should jihadists leaving Iraq perceive themselves, and be perceived, to have failed, we judge fewer fighters will be inspired to carry on the fight," the estimate says.

The estimate lists four factors fueling the spread of jihad: entrenched grievances, corruption, injustice and a sense of powerlessness; Iraq; the slow pace of reform in the Muslim world; and "pervasive anti-U.S. sentiment among most Muslims."

The estimate lists the extremists' vulnerabilities, as well. Their very extremism is unpopular with most Muslims, and violence directed against other Muslims is hurting them. Moderate Muslims have begun speaking out against the jihadists and their view of the world.

This must continue. The estimate says, "In this way, the Muslim mainstream emerges as the most powerful weapon in the war on terror."

Democratic reform also must continue in the Muslim world.

The estimate says the loss of key leaders such as Osama bin Laden, Ayman al-Zawahiri and Abu Musab al-Zarqawi would probably cause the group to splinter. The U.S. Air Force killed Zarqawi June 7, after the report was completed.

The estimate says terrorists will continue to use improvised explosive devices and suicide attacks on soft targets. It also says jihadists will continue to seek chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear capabilities.

Finally, the estimate concludes that "groups of all stripes will increasingly use the Internet to communicate, propagandize, recruit, train and obtain logistical and financial support."

Web site provides info on electronic voting options

USAREUR news release

A new Web site being developed by the Department of Defense will provide information on electronic voting options for servicemembers and other U.S. citizens living overseas.

The Federal Voting Assistance Program launched the new Integrated Voting Alternative Site at www.fvap.gov, said Maj. Harry Turasz, U.S. Army, Europe voting action officer.

The IVAS includes information from all 55 states and territories on the various electronic ballot request and delivery alternatives available to U.S. citizens living overseas and covered under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, Turasz said.

He added that IVAS will be regularly updated

to reflect changes to state laws.

The by-mail ballot system is still the preferred, and most used, voting method for troops and citizens overseas, but it isn't always available. So DoD developed electronic alternatives starting in 1990.

Different states have different electronic voting options, but they almost all allow overseas citizens to use fax machines for at least part of the voting process, noted Scott Wiedmann, deputy director of the Federal Voting Assistance Program.

About 30 states offer blank ballot delivery by fax, and 24 states allow citizens to return ballots by fax.

Ballots cannot be filled out or submitted online because of security concerns, but IVAS

has an electronic Federal Post Card Application - the form citizens use to request an absentee ballot - that can be filled out and submitted to state officials via a secure site.

State officials can then post a blank ballot to the same site, and the citizen can print it out and mail it back when completed.

"Where states are able to participate, either through their state laws or procedures, to use electronic capabilities, we encourage that," Wiedmann said. "That helps to cut down part of the process."

State governments are responsible for the voting process, and DoD does not register any voters or send in ballots. The department simply acts as an intermediary, Wiedmann explained, ensuring citizens covered under the Uniformed

and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act.

This year, 33 senators, 435 members of the House of Representatives, 37 state governors and thousands of state and local officials will be elected, Turasz noted.

To reach Turasz or your garrison-level voting action officer, call:

IMA-EUROPE DSN 370-9021	CIV 06221-57-9021
USAG GRAFENWOEHR DSN 475-6753	CIV 09641-83-6753
USAG HOHENFELS DSN 466-1550	CIV 09472-83-1550

Opinion-Editorial *continued*

October is National Physical Therapy Month

October 2006 is National Physical Therapy Month.

To honor this long tradition of service and to celebrate Physical Therapy Month, I would like to share what the Vilseck Physical Therapy Section has to offer members of the Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels, and Vilseck communities.

We offer "Injury Prevention during Unit Physical Training" classes to units and also as part of the curriculum of the Warrior Leadership Course.

"Ergonomics" and "Low Back Injury Prevention" classes are part of the USAG Grafenwoehr in-processing curriculum for active duty Soldiers.

These classes can also be taught to units, offices/departments, or on a one-on-one basis. We teach "Exercise during Pregnancy" class

as part of the Vilseck New Parent Support "Great Expectations" program for pregnant females. This class is also available to expectant civilian females upon request.

Other class topics include:

- "Osteoporosis and Exercise,"
- "Wellness and the Military Retiree,"
- "Sports and Play Safety for Kids,"
- "Civilian Injury Prevention,"
- "Coaching Safety," and
- "Running Shoe Clinic"

To get more information on how to schedule a class, or to offer future class suggestions or comments, questions, or concerns, contact me at Emily.stehr@us.army.mil or call DSN 476-3322 / 3327.

As the staff of the Vilseck Physical Therapy Section celebrates Physical Therapy Month and we all enjoy the upcoming Thanksgiving

holiday, please remember to move more, eat less, work hard, play smart, be safe, and enjoy life to the fullest.

Physical Therapy History

American PT got its start with polio. In the 17th through 19th centuries, polio devastated Europe. The first polio epidemic in the U.S. was in Vermont in 1894.

From 1914-1916, 27,000 cases of polio were reported in the U.S. In 1917, Janet Merrill was assigned to head physical therapy services administered by Harvard Infantile Paralysis Commission. Exercise was used to help people with debilitating pain and paralysis due to the poliovirus live life more functionally

and with less pain.

During War World I, civilian occupational and physical therapists were hired to serve in the Army Medical Department for the duration of war. They became known as "reconstruction aides."

The Surgeon General appointed Mary McMillan to the Reconstruction Aide Program on Feb. 23, 1918. She became its appointed superintendent in 1919 and the first APTA president on January 1921.

During War World II, physical therapists served overseas for the AMEDD.

The Women's Medical Specialist Corps was established on April 16, 1947, when President Truman signed the Army-Navy Nurses Act of 1947.

The Korean conflict was the first time the Women's Medical Specialist Corps supported the AMEDD in a wartime situation. Males were integrated into Corps on Aug. 9, 1955, and it was renamed the Army Medical Specialist Corps.

Corps officers started serving in Vietnam conflict in 1966 and have been involved in every major military operation since.

Today, the Army Medical Specialist Corps is made up of physical therapists, occupational therapists, dieticians, and physician assistants.

Capt. Emily Stehr
Chief, USAG G/H
Physical Therapy Sections

USAREUR COMMAND MESSAGE

You can help those in need with CFC

The 2006 Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) – Overseas has begun and will last through Dec. 1. The CFC is the only campaign authorized to solicit donations from employees in the federal workplace on behalf of charitable organizations. The campaign motto is *Make a World of Difference*.

Soldiers and DA civilians in the Army in Europe can make a difference by contributing to their favorite charities through the CFC.

More than 1,800 national and international charitable organizations are participating in the campaign. Each year millions of dollars are raised during the campaign. Last year our donations exceeded \$3 million.

Some of these donations directly support our military communities in Europe. Through the CFC – Overseas, contributors may designate donations for their family support and youth programs. One hundred percent of these funds are returned to the community of



origin where they are used to support quality-of-life programs for Soldiers, DOD civilians, and their families. Last year we received more than \$90,000 for our family support and youth programs.

Helping those in need here in the European theater, in the United States, and elsewhere around the world is an affirmation of the American spirit. The CFC is a valuable and reliable program through which we can express our desire to help. I charge leaders and supervisors across the Army in Europe to support this campaign in their organizations and communities. The CFC goal is to give every Soldier and DA civilian employee an informed opportunity to participate.

I strongly encourage everyone to give generously to his or her charity of choice. Doing so will help *Make a World of Difference* for the Army in Europe.

Gen. David McKiernan
Commander,
U.S. Army Europe

INFORMATION LETTER

AWAG seeking workshop speakers for annual conference

“It is our goal to organize a conference that will help celebrate the AWAG organization and community volunteers.”

Continued From Page 2

making our lives better by educating American women in Europe; it truly is a great organization to be involved with.

It is our goal to organize a conference that will help celebrate the AWAG organization and our community volunteers.

Workshops relating to military life, self improvement and volunteer activities will be offered to all volunteers in the Oberpfalz Area (Hohenfels, Grafenwoehr, Vilseck) and Berlin.

We are asking you to consider assisting us by getting the word out, being a speaker, working, or by attending our conference.

We are still in need of speaker/classes and will gladly consider any suggestions you have and greatly appreciate your help in ensuring a successful event.

In addition to the area conference, mark your calendars for the AWAG Grand Conference to be held at the Edelweiss Lodge and Resort in Garmisch April 29 – May 4, 2007.

It is through your support that AWAG continues to be a tremendous asset to the Oberpfalz community.

We are looking forward to educating our new volunteers and energizing those who are already deeply involved in our communities.

Thank you for you time, support and consideration.

Sincerely,

Traci Artman & Laura Redden
AWAG Representatives
oberpfalz@awag.us
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Garrison Snapshot



(Below) 7th Army JMTCCOMM Command Sgt. Maj. William Ellenburg fired a final shot during his retirement ceremony at the Garrison Grafenwoehr parade field Thursday. Ellenburg is retiring to Raeford, N.C., after 30 years of service.

(Left) Frankie Ellenburg, wife of 7th Army JMTCCOMM Command Sgt. Maj. William Ellenburg, is unable to hold back tears during the ceremony as JMTCCOMM Commander Brig. Gen. David Perkins speaks about her dedication to Soldiers.

Photos by Paula Guzman



Deputy NCOA Commandant Sgt. Maj. Antonio Reyes presents a commemorative plaque to the Hickey family Thursday after the Camp Normandy dining facility was dedicated to its first enlisted commandant, Command Sgt. Major Lawrence T. Hickey.

Photo by Paula Guzman



Vilseck American High School faculty and students strike a pose during last week's Wacky Tacky Day, one of several themed days during Spirit Week 2006.

Courtesy photo

Army's top trainer gathers ideas during JMTCC visit

by DAVE MELANCON
USAREUR Public Affairs

The Army's top trainer recently saw for himself how U.S. Army Europe's 7th Army Joint Multinational Training Command prepares Soldiers for operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Gen. William S. Wallace, commander of U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, met with JMTCC trainers in Hohenfels and Grafenwoehr Sept. 25. During his visit, he observed training areas and viewed hands-on demonstrations of JMTCC operations and equipment.

"I came over to see what I can carry back to TRADOC, and to see what kind of assistance TRADOC can offer U.S. Army, Europe," Wallace said. "I know there's some really dynamic training occurring here both in terms of repositioning forces and with training innovations."

"I am really blown away by the infrastructure improvements that have gone on in Grafenwoehr and Hohenfels," he said. "I've seen some very practical uses of some very innovative techniques for Army training."

Wallace said he was impressed with the JMTCC trainers' zeal and their ability to provide commanders with

facilities and opportunities needed to prepare for deployments. He labeled JMTCC "innovative," noting they had developed the best training programs possible with the resources available to them.

Following his meetings in Germany, Wallace, who once commanded U.S. Army Europe's V Corps, traveled to Bulgaria, Romania and Kosovo to study their military training programs and techniques.

The general said he will take home the ideas he has gathered while studying the European training areas, and will integrate them into other TRADOC training centers' programs.

"There is certainly a potential for the rest of the Army to take advantage of the innovations used here and perhaps incorporate them into some of our other combat training centers and some of our home station training centers," he said.

As TRADOC's commander, Wallace oversees recruiting and training for all Soldiers. Additionally, his command develops Army doctrine and supports unit training programs. Wallace leads about 50,000 Soldiers and civilian employees throughout the command's 33 schools located on 16 installations.

All Army training programs and trainers have their strengths and

specialties, Wallace said, adding, "Every place has its unique environment, a little bit different resourcing and opportunities. We need to take advantage of all of them, ensuring there is collaboration and that sharing our ideas is routine."

To improve all Army training programs, trainers need to share with one another their skills and ideas to overcome obstacles such as limited training space, he said.

"Instead of having all the strengths in one pile, all the strengths should be shared equally among all of the training areas," he said.

According to Wallace, JMTCC is ensuring that Soldiers are ready to deploy and are prepared to deal with the situations they will encounter.

"It all seems to come out right for the benefit of our Soldiers and their training, and for our families as well," he said.



U.S. Army TRADOC Commander Gen. William Wallace (center) is briefed at Hohenfels Sept. 25.

Voice your opinion with quality of life survey

EUCOM news release

The U.S. European Command leadership wants to know what you think about the quality of life in Europe. The EUCOM 2006 Quality of Life Survey is available on the EUCOM Web site until Oct. 18.

This is your opportunity to inform leadership about "grassroots" concerns to discuss at the upcoming quality of life conference in December.

The survey is divided into several sections including healthcare, housing, family member education, morale welfare and recreation and single service member issues. You are encouraged to fill in the sections that only apply to you.

"This survey is formatted slightly differently than other surveys," says Wayne Boswell, EUCOM Quality of Life Branch Chief. "It has more areas for write-in answers instead of blocks to check; we hope to really get what people are thinking, in their own words, instead of statistics." Although each branch of the service usually conducts their own surveys, EUCOM wants to get an overall feel of how satisfied personnel in Europe are.

Boswell's staff is scheduled to analyze the survey during November and post the results on the EUCOM Web site in December. The survey is available at www6.eucom.mil/qol.

Army extends Friedberg BCT deployment through February

by JIM GARAMONE

American Forces Press Service

Adjustments to Iraq troop-rotation schedules announced yesterday will allow 15 U.S. combat brigades to be in Iraq through spring, DoD officials said Sept. 26.

The 1st Brigade Combat Team of the 1st Armored Division, based in Friedberg, Germany, will stay in Iraq for another 46 days.

The brigade was scheduled to redeploy in mid-January 2007. This will shift to late February.

The 4th Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, based at Fort Hood, Texas, will deploy 30 days earlier than originally scheduled, beginning in late October.

"We are a nation at war, and you would expect the nation's military to

be used to fight that war," Pentagon spokesman Bryan Whitman said today.

The adjustments will give U.S. Central Command commander Army Gen. John Abizaid and Army Gen. George Casey, the commander Multinational Force Iraq, the type of combat capabilities, troop levels and force constructs they need given the conditions in Iraq, he said.

A further effect of the adjustments will permit the 1st Brigade of the 3rd Infantry Division, based at Fort Stewart, Ga., to complete their full 12-month "dwell time" at their home station.

Army officials said the time is needed so the brigade can finish re-equipping, retraining and resetting, Whitman said.

The adjustments give Casey 15

combat brigades through March 2007. At that time, Casey can determine whether to increase or decrease the size of the force. There are 142,000 U.S. military personnel in Iraq today.

The change also may affect the length of the deployment of the 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team.

In July, DoD extended the unit's deployment to Iraq for up to 120 days.

"Their current redeployment date is for mid-December," Whitman said. "I think there is some desire to move that up a little bit, but that is going to be a decision that rests with the (Multinational Force Iraq) commander."

The changes do not indicate a "broken Army," as some critics are charging, Whitman said.

"What it reflects to me is the flexibility and adaptability of the U.S.

military, particularly the Army, to be able to provide the force structure that's required in a dynamic environment like you have in Iraq," he said.

He also said that "as the conditions and situations change, they are able to make adjustments that provide for the type of combat force that the combat commander thinks he needs."

Deployment or redeployment decisions are not taken lightly, Whitman said.

"At the same time, everyone in this department understands that the first priority is to provide the combatant commander ... with all the tools, all the resources and all the forces that he feels he needs," he said. "The Army and Marine Corps are fulfilling those requirements and doing it on a sustainable and enduring basis."

1st AD Soldiers killed in Grafenwoehr copter crash

1st Armored Division Public Affairs

Two U.S. Soldiers assigned to the 1st Armored Division, 12th Combat Aviation Brigade died Sept. 19 in an aircraft accident at the Grafenwoehr Training Area.

Chief Warrant Officer Timothy R. Breneman, 36, of Charlie Company, 2/159th AVN, Illesheim Army Airfield, Germany, was pronounced dead at 11:45



Breneman

p.m. at the Regensburg University Krankenhaus.

Breneman was the back seat pilot in command of the AH 64D conducting night gunnery training at Range 301 of the Grafenwoehr Training Area when the aircraft crashed shortly after 10 p.m.

Chief Warrant Officer Terry M. Thomas, 31, of Charlie Company, 2/159th AVN, Illesheim Army Airfield, Germany, was pronounced dead at the scene of the accident. Thomas was the copilot gunner in the AH 64D.

The helicopter was on a routine night training flight. The cause of the accident is under investigation.



Thomas

Spouses to Teachers expands to Europe

by Sgt. AIMEE MILLHAM

USAREUR Public Affairs

Starting Oct. 1, military spouses in Europe interested in teaching can participate in the Department of Defense Spouses to Teachers program, which until now had been only available stateside.

The program's services include information on state-specific educational requirements, teaching credentials and scholarship options, along with a maximum reimbursement of \$600 for teacher certification examinations.

"Spouses serve too," said Pamela K. Smith, the Spouse Education, Careers and Relocation program manager for the office of the under secretary of defense for personnel and readiness. "It's our goal to help them build careers."

According to DoD research,

teaching is one of the top-five career choices among military spouses.

And because keeping military spouses employed is a good retention tool, Smith said, the overseas expansion of STT simply makes sense.

The program, directed by Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Educational Support, is open to the spouses of all service members, including reservists and guardsmen.

Furthermore, there are no higher-education requirements to enter the program, and the program is commitment-free.

"You can change your mind and opt out any time," said Marti Readle, advisor for DANTES in Europe.

Interested spouses can contact the Spouses to Teachers network to be assigned a counselor designated for the state where the spouse is interested

in teaching.

For convenience, the interaction between spouses in Europe and their STT counselors will occur via the Internet and by phone.

And while counselors will help prospective teachers map out their educational career according to state and subject-based requirements, the program is not a job-placement service, Readle said. Plus counselors will not advise spouses which schools to attend.

"You have to be proactive," Readle stressed.

"In the military, we're used to being told exactly where to go and what to do. That's not the way this program works," he said.

Spouses can find a list of several military cooperative teacher certification programs available through distance learning at www.dantes.doded.mil.

Though the program does not find jobs for spouses, there is a planned partnership between STT and the DoD Education Activity, through which DODEA plans to provide support to spouses wherever it can, including possible student teaching opportunities, Smith said.

Additionally, Smith recommends two Web sites – military.com/spouse and milspouse.org – that compliment the STT program by serving as career centers where spouses can research career information, post resumes and make job searches.

Spouses interested in the STT program in Europe can log onto www.spousetoteachers.com, and click on the "OCONUS" link.

They also can contact the National Spouses to Teachers Office in Pensacola, Fla., by phone at 1-800-231-6282 or DSN 922-6282, or by e-mail at stt@voled.doded.mil.

Heidelberg principal named 2007 NASSP principal of year

DODDS-Europe

Dr. Ellen Minette, Principal of Heidelberg Middle School in Heidelberg, Germany, has been selected as the 2007 National Principal of the Year for Middle School.

The National Association of Secondary School Principals and the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company announced the selection on Sept. 11.

Dr. Minette's selection as the recipient of this prestigious award represents the first time that a Department of Defense Education Activity principal has been chosen as the national winner. She will be honored during an awards banquet on Oct. 14 in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Minette received the news of her selection during a school assembly at Heidelberg Middle School Sept. 11.

NASSP Board President, Mr. Joseph Militello, made the surprise announcement.

On hand to congratulate Dr. Minette was U.S. Army Europe Commander, General David D. McKiernan, and DoDDS-Europe Director, Diana J. Ohman.

The Principal of the Year Program, which began in 1993, is sponsored by the NASSP and the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company as a means to recognize outstanding middle level and high school principals.

This program honors secondary school principals who have succeeded in providing high-quality learning opportunities for students and for their exemplary contributions to the profession.

One middle/high school level principal is selected from each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense Education Activity.

From these state winners, six finalists are selected (three middle level, three high school) to become eligible for the National Principal of the Year award.

MetLife and NASSP will present each state winner with an award during their annual Principal's Institute and Awards Banquet held in Washington, D.C. The National Principals of the Year (one middle level, one high school) will receive a \$5,000 grant, and the four finalists will be awarded a \$1,500 grant.

Dr. Minette has worked tirelessly to provide an environment within which each student can succeed.

"In a personalized school, more rigor can be expected of students," said Minette. "To add such rigor, I challenge the teachers to instill in each student a belief in one of my favorite mantras, 'What you are learning is

important; you can do it; and I will never give up on you.' When children feel that the teacher and the school care about their learning, they respond."

Prior to becoming principal at Heidelberg High School, Dr. Minette served as assistant principal at Mannheim Elementary and Middle schools, at Heidelberg and Ludwigsburg middle schools, and at Patch High School in the DoDDS-E Bavaria District.

She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from California State University in Long Beach, a Master of Education degree from Boston University, and Master and Doctorate degrees in Education from Columbia University Teachers College.

"Dr. Minette is an inspiration to all of us. Colleagues, students, and parents in military communities worldwide share in the joy and pride she must be feeling," said Dr. Joseph Tafoya, Director for DoDEA.

"She is an outstanding professional in the field of education and embodies the DoDEA mission to provide, in military communities worldwide, exemplary educational programs that inspire and prepare all students for success in a global environment," he said.

“... one of my favorite mantras: What you are learning is important; you can do it; and I will never give up on you.”

Dr. Ellen Minette

on what she challenges teachers to instill in each student



Minette

Bavaria district office gets new school superintendant

DODDS-Europe

Diana J. Ohman, Director of Department of Defense Dependents Schools-Europe, takes great pleasure in announcing the appointment of Michael Thompson to fill the position as the superintendent of the Bavaria District Office.

Thompson knows the Bavaria District well, having served as its assistant superintendent and chief of staff since 2000. The district

comprises 22 Department of Defense Education Activity schools in central and southern Germany.

Thompson was born and raised in Butte, Montana. He holds a bachelor's degree in social studies and physical sciences from Western Montana College, and a master's degree in school administration from Western Montana College, University of Montana.

Thompson is entering his twenty-first year with DoDDS-Europe. His experience includes service as a teacher and coach at Osterholz American High School in Osterholz-Scharmbeck, Germany, from 1986 to 1990.

He became assistant principal of the school in 1990. He served as principal at Nuremberg American High School from 1992 to 1995.

From 1995 to 2000, he was principal at Hohenfels High School in Hohenfels, Germany.

"I'd like the students, parents, military members, teachers, staff and administrators to know that we are going to continue the many successful initiatives the Bavaria District has in place that support the DoDEA Community Strategic Plan," Thompson said.

"With the beginning of the new school year we also begin a new five-year community strategic plan, where we will make adjustments to the support initiatives as population shifts occur," he said.

"There were several good candidates, but I know he is the best fit for this job," said Ohman.

"I'm excited to be a part of the Bavaria District team, where we are committed to success for all students," Thompson said.



Courtesy photo

Mike Thompson has worked for DoDDS-Europe for 20 years.

Nearby factory offers nutcrackers, souvenirs, bevy of Christmas decor

by JODI WARD
Staff writer

Just a short, scenic drive away in Eschenbach is the Alte Nussknacker Fabrik (Old Nutcracker Factory,) where for over 40 years, German and American customers have shopped for traditional German holiday decorations and gifts.

For nearly three centuries, the people of Germany have collected, appreciated, and enjoyed nutcrackers, not only for their practical use, but for their exceptional craftsmanship and fanciful expressions.

Nutcrackers in the form of wooden carvings of a soldier, knight, king, or other profession have existed since at least the 15th century. The carving of nutcrackers — as well as of religious figures and of cribs — developed as a cottage industry in forested rural areas of Germany.

Nutcrackers carry a *sense of tradition* as well as an abundance of stories and legends of the past. German dining customs often included amusing or unusual nutcrackers as part of the social setting. This curious tool would also serve as a whimsical conversation piece as guests lingered over the dessert course, typically including local nuts, such as pecans and hazelnuts.

Originally one could insert a nut in the big-toothed mouth and press down to crack the nut. Modern nutcrackers in this style serve mostly for decoration, mainly at Christmastime. Although nutcrackers have been



Staff photo by Jodi Ward
Nutcrackers are the feature item.

around for ages, they were not always the collectible items we know them as today. In fact, nutcrackers only became popular in the United States about 50 years ago.

As Soldiers returned to the U.S. after serving in Germany during WWII, they brought with them the beautifully crafted wooden men as souvenirs from their trips to the local Christkindlmarkt (German Christmas markets).

The nutcracker, and all of its whimsy and rich German heritage, had arrived in the United States.

Fascination with the sometimes ornately decorated nutcrackers only grew with the increasing popularity of Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker ballet, the most popular ballet performed around the world at Christmastime.

Though the neighboring



Photo by Sue Bluhm

Decorations are sectioned off by color.

Nutcracker Factory is no longer an actual "factory," the shop continues to offer products of the highest quality.

The nutcrackers, for example, are made in Erzgebirge (Old Eastern Germany,) at the Ulbricht factory, where the Ulbricht family has been creating nutcrackers since 1934.

The Nutcracker Factory owner and manager, Markus Tauber, said he contracts production of his company's own nutcracker, cuckoo clock, and **grandfather clock designs** out to the best factories in Germany, such as the Ulbricht factory.

Tauber said this allows the company to offer its own designs at reduced, factory-direct prices.

"We sell everything at the cheapest price we can for the customer," said Tauber. "When you

come here to look at, say a clock, you will, nowhere in Germany find a cheaper price because we have nobody between us and the manufacturer."

Tauber said that he works with AAFES to sell select Nutcracker Factory products at the Vilseck PX throughout the holiday season but, said Tauber, those items are just a preview of what the Eschenbach store offers.

Tauber said the Nutcracker Factory is the largest Christmas store in Bavaria, offering everything from **tree decorations to crafts, and jewelry.**

"Tour groups come here; people from all over the world come to shop here," he said.

Thousands of colorful and ornately painted ornaments line the shelves and brim over baskets and

bins throughout the store.

Collectors' items, such as Hummel ornaments, figurines and Nativity sets, fill glass cases. Numerous displays provide design ideas for customers, as does the English-speaking sales staff.

To the left of the main store entrance is a discount shop where bargain hunters can ferret out deals and decorations for every season and holiday, home décor, and even shoes.

Weary shoppers can take a break for breakfast, lunch and, starting next month, for dinner at the adjacent Boca Chica café.

Customers leave the Nutcracker Factory with more than Christmas tree ornaments, hand-carved nutcrackers, and full stomachs.

They leave with a new appreciation for the impeccable **German craftsmanship**, artistry, and deep-rooted tradition that goes into the making of each item.

And like the WWII Soldiers who first brought nutcrackers to the United States, you too can purchase one of these sturdy little men as a reminder of your time in Germany.

The Nutcracker Factory is located at Am Stadtwald 8, in Eschenbach and is open Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.; and Sunday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

They accept VAT forms and all major credit cards.

For directions or for more information on the store and its products, visit www.alte-nussknackerfabrik.de or e-mail info@nussknackerfabrik.de.



Photo by Sue Bluhm

The factory also offers traditional craft items.



Photo by Sue Bluhm

The adjoining cafe offers a shopping pit stop.



Photo by Sue Bluhm

Budget items fill the discount bins.

Wine aficionados can ship collections stateside

by ROBERT SZOSTEK
USEUCOM Customs PAO

Many Americans start a wine collection while in Europe and want to send it to the United States when their overseas tour ends.

With a little advance planning and patience, wine connoisseurs can still enjoy their favorite European vintages if they find a way to ship their collection and pay any tax or duty that may be due.

"First contact your local transportation office to find out about weight limitations, shipping procedures and how, if possible, to get reimbursed for the transportation costs," said William Johnson of the U.S. European Command's Customs and Border Clearance Agency.

However he added that any duty or tax you pay is not reimbursable.

Military transportation officials will usually not put the collection in your personal property shipment because of the damage risk from broken bottles but they will have a list of wine merchants or moving companies that ship wine collections.

"The company will tell you about state restrictions on alcohol and how

to pay any tax that needs to be paid," said Johnson.

He explained that the airport you ship the collection to must have a U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) office.

As for other shipping options, Johnson pointed out that the U.S. Postal Service will not let you mail wine and courier companies are usually unwilling to ship it.

After the company packs the collection, you receive a shipping document and a copy of the bill of sale for the tax and shipping costs.

It is also best to find out your shipment's airline, flight number, date of arrival and, most important of all, it's shipping document number before you fly.

"When you arrive stateside, go to the airport's cargo section with the shipping documents," Johnson said. "They will give you additional paperwork to take to the CBP office."

He recommends you clear your wine collection at the port of entry yourself because using a customs house broker is very expensive. Customs will work out the duty and IRS tax and stamp your customs clearance.

Customs officials report that the

duty on still wine is currently 8.4 cents per liter, but goes up to 19.8 cents for sparkling wine.

Duty can be as little as 3.5 cents for vermouth. IRS tax depends on the alcoholic strength of the beverage concerned and works out to around \$.06 per liter for wine. However, these rates of tax and duty are subject to change.

"Take your customs clearance back to the cargo section where the collection is released to you," Johnson concluded.

Follow these rules and you can enjoy the best products of Old World vineyards at your new stateside home for many years.

Find out more about shipping liquor products to the United States or consult the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms at www.atf.treas.gov/alcohol/info/persimp.htm.

Links to state alcohol control boards can be found at www.hqsareur.army.mil/opm/state.htm.

For more information, call or visit your local military customs office at USAG-Grafenwoehr, Vilseck Bldg 700 in Room 18, at DSN 476-2105 / 2106 or CIV 09662-832105.



Before shipping wine collections, contact your local transportation office to find out about weight limitations, shipping procedures and how, if possible, you can be reimbursed for shipping costs.

Photo by Paula Guzman

What’s Happening

Grafenwoehr/ Vilseck Briefs

Pay attention to construction signs for new traffic routes

Due to ongoing construction at Grafenwoehr, motorists are asked to pay attention to road detour and closure signs for safe driving!

Motorists can find more information, including maps with detailed traffic flow patterns, in the garrison weekly e-newsletter and on the Command Information Channel.

Central Texas College offering vo-tech courses

Central Texas College Vilseck/ Grafenwoehr is offering the following vocational-technical courses in the upcoming term:

AUMT 1419 – Automotive Engine Repair (4 credit hours);

CDEC 1358 – Creative Arts for Early Childhood (3 credit hours); and

CJSA 1327 – Fundamentals of Criminal Law (3 credit hours).

These classes are classroom-based and lead to an Associate in Applied Science degree. All classes this term will be held in Vilseck at the Army Education Center or the CTC Auto Shop for the AUMT class.

Term II registration is scheduled Oct. 2-13, and class dates are Oct. 24 – Dec. 16 for the AUMT and CJSA classes.

Class dates for CDEC are Dec. 2-3, 9, and 16.

Contact CTC field representative Chuck Sligh at the Vilseck Education Center for more information on these and other available programs at DSN 476-2362, CIV 09662-83-2362, or by e-mail at vilseck@europe.ctcd.edu.

Service contracts available in Grafenwoehr, Vilseck

Non-personal service contracts are available in the Grafenwoehr and Vilseck communities for a musician, music director, religious education coordinator, and Catholic parish coordinator.

Solicitations for bid are available on the contracting homepage at <http://www.usacce.army.mil/>. Click “Vendor/contractor,” then click “ASFL”, then click “ACA RCO Grafenwoehr” to view the solicitations.

College Night set Oct. 25, still seeking volunteers

Vilseck High School and the garrison school liaison office are looking for volunteers to represent their colleges and universities and meet with students Oct. 25 at Vilseck High School from 4:30-7:30 p.m.

Order materials from your college today, and sign up by e-mailing the garrison SLO at steve.vojtecky@us.army.mil. Questions? Ask the SLO?

Vilseck Post Exchange, shoppette has new hours

Effective immediately, the following hours are in effect:

Rose Barracks Shoppette: Monday to Saturday from 5:30 a.m. to midnight, and Sunday from 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Main Exchange: Monday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. , and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

MCSS: Monday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. , and closed on Sunday,

Concession Mall: Hours vary from store to store. See vendor for hours.

Christian home educators support group meets in Graf

Grafenwoehr Garrison Christian Home Educators Support Group meets the second Thursday of each month at the Grafenwoehr Post Library between 6 and 8 pm.

Come and receive support, share resources, knowledge, and your wisdom.

For more information, contact Dawn Sovinsky at CIV 09608-923-733 or terry.dawn@asamnet.de

Know how to contact schools

Grafenwoehr Elementary:
475-7133 / 09641 83 7133
Principal Crystal Bailey

Vilseck Elementary:
476-2812 / 09662-83-2812
Principal Nancy Hammack
Assistant Principal Becky Balcer

Grafenwoehr Middle School:
475-9500/9504 / 09641-83-9500
Principal Mary Zimmerman-Bayer
Assistant Principal Barbara Hooker

Vilseck High School:
476-2864/2554 / 09662-83-2864
Principal Robert Sennett
Assistant Principal Duane Werner

School Transportation Office (Bus Office):
475-9525 / 09641-83-9525

Now located in Grafenwoehr Middle School - Waiscel Hines, Jimmy Avery, Shelly Cohen

After school hours for emergencies:
Cell: 0162-271-7577
Cell: 0162-271-7580
Cell: 0162-271-7583

Check with your school for details on school events:

Friday - Teacher Work Day, no school for students

Oct. 13 - GES and GMS Grafenwoehr Volksmarch (14-15 community)

Oct. 25 - VHS College Night 4:30-7:30 p.m.

Nov. 3 - Teacher Work Day, no school for students

8-9 November, Parent Teacher Conferences at VES and GES

9 November, Parent Teacher Conferences at GMS and VHS

AAFES’ hours change for Columbus Day Monday

Due to the U.S. holiday Columbus Day, AAFES store hours will change Monday as follows:

Vilseck
Main PX and Pxtra: 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Shoppette: 5:30 a.m. -midnight
CCC: 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m.
Furniture Store: closed
MCSS: 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Food Court: 10:30 a.m.-6 p.m.
Burger King: 10:30 a.m.-7 p.m.
Subway: 10 a.m.-8 p.m.
Breakfast at Charley’s and Bruger King will not be served.

Graf
Shoppette/PZ: 7:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m.
Gas Station: 7:30 a.m.-7 p.m.
BK/Anthony’s: 10:30 a.m.-7 p.m.
CCC: 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m.
MCSS: 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
Office Source: closed
AACHEN: based on training
Camp Normandy: based on training

Hohenfels
Main Store& Pxtra: closed
Shoppette: 7 a.m.-9 p.m.
Gas: 7 a.m.-6 p.m.
CCC: closed
BK & Anthony’s: closed
Robin Hood: 11 a.m.-6 p.m.
MCSS/Shoppette: 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

General officer nominations

Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld has announced that the president of the United States has made the following nominations:

■ Air Force Lt. Gen. Robert Bishop Jr. has been nominated for appointment to the grade of lieutenant general with assignment as commander, 3rd Air Force, U. S. Air Forces in Europe, Ramstein Air Base, Germany. Bishop is currently serving as vice commander, U. S. Air Forces in Europe, Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

■ Army Maj. Gen. James Thurman for appointment to the grade of lieutenant general and assignment as commanding general, V Corps, U.S. Army Europe and Seventh Army, Germany. Thurman is currently serving as commanding general, 4th Infantry Division (mechanized)/commanding general, Multi-National Division-Baghdad, Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Shoppette hours change Nov. 1

The Grafenwoehr and Vilseck shoppette hours will change, effective Nov. 1, as follows:

Grafenwoehr
Mon.-Sat., 6:30 a.m.-10 p.m.
Sun., 9 a.m.-8 p.m.

Vilseck
New weekend hours:
Open 5:30 a.m. Friday and closed at 9 p.m. Sunday

Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with garrison events

Enjoy food samplings and entertainment at the Hispanic Heritage Month Fiesta Oct. 14 from noon-5 p.m. at the Grafenwoehr Field House.

Come to the Grafenwoehr Library for children’s readings in Spanish, or enter the Poster/Essay contest at your school through Oct. 15.

Garrison Combined Federal Campaign in full swing

The Combined Federal Campaign was founded in 1964 to help raise funds for people who are less fortunate.

Many charitable organizations depend on the donations of thoughtful people to successfully help the disadvantaged.

The 2006 CFC Campaign kicked off Oct. 2. Contact Christine Nunez at DSN 475-8432 or christine.nunez@us.army.mil for more information or individual training.

Area ski club meets twice a month at Rose Barracks

Calling all skiers and snowboarders!!!

The Grafenwoehr and Vilseck Ski Club meetings are held twice a month at Vilseck’s Yesterdays Club.

Our October meetings will take place tomorrow and Oct. 19 at 6:30 p.m.

Come to get information and reserve a space on our veterans weekend and Thanksgiving trips.

For more information, e-mail grafskiclub@hotmail.com or visit www.grafskiclub.50megs.com.

Next Youth Sports coach clinic slated Oct. 26

The NYSCA Introduction to Coaching Youth Sports is a membership program designed to “sensitize” volunteer coaches to their responsibilities when working with children in sports and hold them accountable to a strict “code of conduct” defined by the NYSCA Coaches’ Code of Ethics Pledge.

Attending a coach’s clinic is mandatory prior to becoming a CYS volunteer coach. The next clinic is set for Oct. 26.

Sessions start promptly at 4 p.m. in Bldg. 224, Vilseck. To sign up, call Lana Muzzy at DSN 476-3566.

Expect delays during Oct. 14 force protection exercise

Charging Boar 2006 is a USAREUR mandated force protection exercise conducted on the installation Oct. 14.

The Community can expect delays at all access control points for both sides of the installation (Grafenwoehr and Vilseck) from 8 a.m. – noon, and delays entering some service establishments including the PX, commissary, and CMR.

We appreciate the communities’ understanding as we exercise our first responders from the garrison.

Graf chapel to celebrate Blessing of Animals today

The Blessing of Animals Service Feast Day, Francis of Assisi, is set for today at 4:30 p.m. at the Grafenwoehr Chapel.

All Animals are and their humrans are welcome. Call DSN 476-3696 / 476-1570 for more information.

USAG Grafenwoehr has new family life chaplain

The Vilseck/Graf Community has a new Family Life Chaplain -- Chaplain (Maj.) Darin Nielsen.

Nielsen provides individual, marital, family and group counseling.

He is located upstairs in Bldg. 322 at Vilseck and in Bldg. 555 at Grafenwoehr.

For support or more information, call DSN 476-3276.

Motorcycle club meetings set

The garrison motorcycle group will meet at the Thai restaurant in G Tomorrow and Oct. 19

Nov. 2, 16, and 30

Dec. 14 and 28

Place your free ad in the Bavarian News online

All valid ID cardholders can place free ads in the Bavarian News.

Just visit <http://www.rlehner.de/trainingtimes/freeclass.htm>.

New Saturday Thrift Shop hours at Grafenwoehr

The Grafenwoehr Thrift Shop is now open the first Saturday of each month from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. with consignments taken from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Call 475-6181.

Hohenfels Briefs

Flamenco classes in session

Flamenco class will now be on Monday and Wednesdays 6:45 - 7:45 p.m. Sign up at the post gym.

For more info, call DSN 466-2883.

Club Beyond hosting Holiday Park visit Friday

If you are between the seventh and twelfth grade and want an opportunity to have fun and hang out with other teens, we have the trip for you!

Club Beyond Hohenfels will take a trip to Holiday Park (just outside Heidelberg) Friday (no school!).

You can visit the Web site at www.holidaypark.de. If you are interested in this trip, and contact Chris Howard as soon as possible to reserve a spot.

The cost is 25 Euro, which includes transportation. If we have 20 or more, the cost drops to 20 Euro.

Lunch will be provided, however, students will pay for their own dinner inside the park.

The trip will be an all-day event (departure at around 8:30 a.m. and returning at about 10 p.m.).

Sign up via phone or e-mail. Call Chris at DSN 466-4793 or CIV 015114943311 or e-mail christopher.s.howard@us.army.mil.

PWOC hosting World Missions gathering today

The Protestant Women of the Chapel presents “World Missions: A Closer Look at the ‘Great Commission’” at 6 p.m., Oct. 4, at the Hilltop Chapel.

Come join us for an Asian potluck and to hear informative and exciting stories about the mission field.

Childcare is free for children ages 6 weeks to 5 years. Contact Jean Adams at gvmejesus@yahoo.com for information.

Library’s weekly preschool story time now in session

The Hohenfels Library is holding their weekly preschool story time every Thursday at 10 a.m.

We will read books, discuss different subjects, and offer fun crafts for children ages 3 to 5. Come and find out about this great service. For more information, call DSN 466-1740.

CTC registration set through Oct. 13, classes begin Oct. 23

Automotive Engine Repair
Monday, Wednesday, Friday 6-10 p.m.

Advanced Leadership
Tuesday and Thursday 6-9 p.m.

Court Systems and Practices
Monday and Wednesday 6-9 p.m.

Child Guidance
Tuesday and Thursday 6-8 p.m.

If you are active duty and not presently enrolled in GoArmyEd, plan to attend the briefing held every Thursday at 1:30 p.m.

Contact the CTC field representative at DSN 466-3140 or CIV 09472-83-3140 for more information.

Medical, dental insurance briefing scheduled Oct. 17

The American Foreign Service Protective Association is giving a briefing on Federal Employees Health Benefits Program, Long Term Care Insurance, and dental insurance on Oct. 17 at 1 p.m. at the USAG Hohenfels DOL conference room, Bldg 315.

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Opening Hours



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Friday, 27 Oct., 11 -19:00

Saturday, 28 Oct., 10 -19:00

Sunday, 29 Oct., 11 -17:00

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Bazaar is open to all Military ID, Card Holders. Visa, Mastercard, Cash & Checks accepted. Stroller Park available.



German beer more than just a beverage

by MARTINA BIAS
Bavarian News Food & Culture columnist

When I moved to the Unites States, it seemed that one of the first questions I was always asked after they found out that I was German was: “So, do you drink your beer warm?”

I was, at first, a little puzzled by that question. I realized that most Americans associate Germany with beer, but why do they think we drink it warm?

The only reason my father drinks it at room temperature is because he has a very sensitive stomach and cold drinks gives him cramps. The only other time my family drank it warm was when we were sick and needed a good night’s sleep.

My grandma would warm about ¾ cup of beer and stir 1 tablespoon of honey into it. Soon after drinking this mixture you would be fast asleep.

The only reason I can see why Americans believe Germans drink their beer warm is that we do not like it as “ice cold” as U.S. commercials promote. Germans believe that “shock-frosting” and extreme cold temperatures diminish the fine taste of the precious brew.

The ideal bottled brew should be slowly chilled in the refrigerator to about 7 to 9 degrees Celsius (about 45 degrees Fahrenheit).

German breweries also recommend that beer be stored upright in a cool, dark place (the conditions of a German beer cellar). It is assumed that one never shakes a bottle before opening it, but rather lets it “calm down” before opening it.

You might find that Germans are taking their beer a little too serious, but you don’t even know the half of it.

Germans actually have a “Reinheitsgebot fuer Bier” (beer purity regulation). Regardless of whether it is light or dark, the law dating back to 1516 stipulates that it can only be brewed with four approved natural ingredients: malt, hops, yeast, and water. This has caused quite a bit of controversy within the European Union after breweries from outside Germany wanted to sell their beer in this country.

You see, for Germans beer is a very important food item. I often jokingly refer to it as the sixth food group for my fellow countrymen.

There is even a short prayer that says: “Hopfen und Malz, Gott erhalt’s” (hops and malt, may God protect it).

Germans consider beer a pleasure drink. As long as it is consumed in reasonable amounts, it has a warming and stimulating effect. Enjoyed



Photo by Sue Bluhm

Oktoberfest visitors enjoy beer and the famous German “Gemuetlichkeit” (coziness) Sept. 24 in Munich.

in moderation, it will give you the feeling of contentment and a sense of well-being. Germans even sing about that. You may have been siting in a beer tent when all of a sudden everybody joined in singing, “Ein Prosit, ein Prosit, der Gemuetlichkeit” (cheers, cheers for the coziness), while holding up their glass of beer.

Most Germans reject the notion that their beloved drink can cause the so-called “Bierbauch” (beer belly), as beer, depending on the type, has about 400 – 500 calories per quart.

Therefore, beer is still the most popular drink in Germany. There are approximately 1,270 breweries that combined produce over 5,000 different beers. In addition, Germans mix beer with soda for even more flavor combinations.

Two of the most popular mixtures are “Radler” (biker), which combines lemon-lime soda with a light colored beer and “Colaweizen” featuring cola and a light wheat-malt beer.

Germans believe that there is no food dish that is not complimented by a good glass of beer.

Bavarians are especially attached to their beer, not surprisingly since the biggest hops producing region is right here in the “Hallertau” (along A-93). For many locals, beer is an important part of Bavarian culture, just like the Oktoberfest, Lederhosen, and the Alps.

A funny story by Bavarian comedian

Ludwig Thoma in 1911 tells the tale of a beer-loving Bavarian who goes to heaven and his love for beer. It has become a classic, and is still very popular today:

A Bavarian in Heaven

Alois Hingerl was porter No. 172, in Munich. One day, he did his assigned duty with such haste that he suffered a stroke, fell to the ground and died.

Two angels had trouble dragging him up to heaven where he was greeted by St. Peter.

The apostle issued him a harp and informed him about the heavenly schedule:

From 8:00 AM until noon: rejoicing; from noon until 8 PM: “Hosanna” singing.

“And when do I get anything to drink around here?” Alois asked. “Don’t worry” Peter answered “you will receive your Manna”.

“Oh man”, the new angel, now called Aloisius, thought. “It will be extremely boring around here”.

At that time he spotted a red biker and his old anger came through “You #*%*\$, are you up here too?” And he struck him with his heavenly instrument.

After that attack, however, he sat down on a cloud and started to rejoice like he was instructed to: “Ha-le-le-lu-u-hu-jah!”...

A ghostly looking holy man sailed past him. “Hey you! Neighbor! Do you happen to have some snuff on you?”

The person questioned simply whispered

“Hosanna” and flew on.

“Well, what kind of weirdo is that?!” Aloisius exclaimed. “So you don’t have any snuff, you angel, you conceited goober!” He then started to sing again, very angry this time: “Ha-ha-le-le-lu-u-uh - #*%*\$@ - lu - uuu - jah!”

He screamed so loud that he woke God from his afternoon nap. God was surprised and asked: What kind of rascal do we have up here now?”

He called for St. Peter and told him: “Listen to that!” Again they heard Aloisius sing: “Ha- aaah - le -@#%\$^-%^&*-\$\$@ - uuuuuh - jah!..”

Peter immediately led Alois Hingerl before God and the Lord spoke: “Aha! A man from Munich, of course! Now, tell me please why you scream around here in such an indecent way?”

Alois, however was very bad tempered and since he was already all fired up, he roared, “Well, what do you think?” Just because you are God, I have to sing like a nightingale all day long , ... and I don’t get anything to drink! And this other guy said I would get some manna! You can keep your ole manna. Besides, I am done singing!”

“Peter”, God said, “this guy does us no good up here. I have a different mission for him. He will deliver my godly advice to the Bavarian government. That way he will get to be in Munich a few times every week.”

Aloisius was very happy about this turn of events. He immediately received a letter to deliver to the minister of culture and took off towards his beloved city.

According to his old routine, his first stop was the Hofbrauhaus (famous Munich gasthaus), and he found his old favorite seat was empty, and his favorite waitress, Kathi, came to him, and he ordered a big glass of beer, and another glass of beer.

He forgot about his letter and duty, and he ordered another big glass of beer, and another, and another, and he still sits there today.

... and that’s why the Bavarian government is still waiting in vain for godly inspiration.

Have you ever wondered why Germans do certain things? I welcome your questions and comments. E-mail me at martina.bias@us.army.mil, and I may be able to address your suggestions in a future column.



Aloysius: Germany’s most famous beer-loving Bavarian angel.

Cooking with beer: Bavarian style pork stew

Recipe and photo by MARTINA BIAS
Bavarian News Food & Culture columnist

Since beer is so dear to a German’s heart, it is not surprising that we also use it for cooking. After all, beer has valuable ingredients that make it beneficial to one’s body.

Beer contains carbohydrates and protein for easily accessible energy. Alcohol, carbonation, and components of hops stimulate the digestive juices and increase appetite.

The pH-level (4.5) of beer influences the digestive enzymes in a positive way. In addition, beer supplies you with valuable B vitamins and minerals.

You can cook with light or dark beer, based on your personal preference. Keep in mind that the flavor will vary accordingly.

Do not disregard cooking with beer just because you do not like drinking it. In most dishes, you will not have a beer flavor at all.

The most common dishes you might find on a German menu that contain beer are: Biersuppe (beer soup), Apfelkuchlein in Bierteig (apple fritters in beer dough), Bierbrot (beer bread) and Gebratene Schweinshaxe mit Biersoße (roasted pork knuckle in beer sauce).

Germans often use beer in place of broth in stew-like dishes. Try preparing your next beef stew with beer instead of tomato sauce and you may be surprised at the new flavor sensation.

The following recipe combines typical

Bavarian ingredients like pork, caraway seed, beer, and rye bread to a tasty dish that is best served with boiled potatoes.
Guten Appetit!

Bayerisches Bierfleisch

- 2 pounds of pork stew meat
- 1 tsp. salt
- ½ tsp. pepper
- 1 tsp. marjoram
- 1 tsp. thyme
- 1 tsp. rosemary
- 2 medium onions, peeled and quartered
- 3 Tbs. butter
- 2 Tbs. caraway seed (or less)
- ½ quart (½ liter) beer
- 2 slices (German) rye bread

Place meat cubes in a large bowl and sprinkle with salt, pepper and herbs. Mix gently by hand and let sit for 30 minutes.

Melt butter in a large pot and sauté the onions. Add meat and brown. Add caraway seed and beer.

Cook covered over medium heat for about 30 minutes. Just before serving, tear bread into ½- inch pieces and add to stew. Stir in gently. Serve with boiled potatoes.

Yield: 6- 8 servings

Do you have a favorite German dish you would like to recreate at home? E-mail me at martina.bias@us.army.mil.



Caraway seed, beer, and rye bread combine to make Bayerisches Bierfleisch - Bavarian style pork stew - a delicious dish.

Try something different ! If you like to cook and would like an authentic German recipe, e-mail the Bavarian News Food & Culture columnist for a recipe.
Wondering how to recreate a delicious dish you ate in a village Gasthof or neighborhood cafe? Let us know. We’d like to feature the recipe in a future issue.
Just e-mail us at martina.bias@us.army.mil. Guten Appetit!

Troops shine during NFL game

by Tech Sgt. BEN GONZALES, USAF
Special to the American Forces Press Service

The National Football League's Houston Texans honored American servicemembers during its salute to the military at the game against the Washington Redskins at Reliant Stadium here Sept. 24.

Starting with pregame activities and throughout the game, military members were spotlighted as part of the Texans' military appreciation day during the Redskins 31-15 victory over the Texans.

The military's presence was evident from the parking lot to the stands and even on the field as servicemembers were recognized for fighting the war on terrorism.

Outside the stadium before the game, military recruiters talked to citizens about the benefits of serving. Numerous uniformed members were invited to the game by the team.

Marine Corps Sgt. Michael Huntley, a military working dog handler from Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., was invited by the Texans to meet people in the parking lot and to be welcomed on the field during pregame ceremonies.

Huntley returned in June from serving seven months in Ramadi, Iraq, as part of an explosive-detection dog team. He was tasked with finding



Photo by Tech Sgt. Cecilio M. Ricardo

An Air Force member — along with 199 other service members — pulls out a football field-sized flag during pregame events of the football game between the Houston Texans and Washington Redskins at Reliant Stadium in Houston Sept. 24. The game was designated as the Houston Texans' salute to the military day by team officials.

improvised explosive devices.

"I really support everything they do," said Kathryn Currier, a Texans fan who talked to many military members during tailgating before the game. "Without (military servicemembers) we couldn't be enjoying the game and our freedom."

Football fans did not just get to meet servicemembers, they also got to hear from those in uniform, too.

Texans officials selected Army Staff Sgt. Santantoniano Smith from the Houston Recruiting Battalion, to sing the national anthem in front of more than 70,000 fans and a regionally-televised audience.

"I haven't done anything this big before," said the seven-year Army veteran who is a native of LaGrange, N.C. "It is great to be supported by the NFL and the Texans. It's a pleasure to know there are people out here who support what we do."

As Smith sang the national

anthem, a joint service color guard from the Houston area stood behind him with the nation's colors and service flags, and 200 Soldiers, Coast Guardsmen, sailors, Marines and airmen unfurled a football-field sized American flag.

Following the "Star Spangled Banner" was the coin toss. On hand to witness the coin toss was Brig. Gen. Mark O. Schissler, the director for the

The audience gave a thunderous ovation after the team's performance.

Texans officials also selected Army Capt. Brandon Teague as its hometown hero for the day.

The Houston native is a company commander with Company B, 2nd Battalion, 504th Infantry Regiment, of the 82nd Airborne Division from Fort Bragg, N.C.

The captain was chosen for the award after serving a tour in Iraq and two tours in Afghanistan.

His latest tour supporting the war on terrorism found his 17-man squad monitoring the Afghanistan-Pakistan border.

Approximately 60 al Qaeda members came across the border during a foggy evening.

At the break of day Oct. 29, 2005, the enemy engaged Teague and his men.

With the assistance of artillery support from Soldiers of the 173rd Airborne Brigade from Vicenza, Italy, who were in the area, Teague led the victory over the al Qaeda fighters.

For his actions in the 1.5 hour-long battle, the captain received the Silver Star.

"Without the support from my family and Americans who support the troops, it would be more difficult to do our job," Teague said. "It is great to see such venue supporting the troops."



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Ben Gonzales
Army Staff Sgt. Santantoniano Smith from the Houston Recruiting Battalion sings the national anthem prior to the game Sept. 24.

"The support is outstanding and shows everyone's thinking of us. I feel appreciated for what I do and that I make a difference. This experience confirms it."

Sgt. Michael Huntley
U.S. Marine Corps

war on terrorism in the Joint Staff Strategic Plans and Policy Directorate in Washington, D.C.

Also present for the coin toss were Marine Sgt. Tony Martin and Cpl. Dale Gargave, who escorted Purple Heart recipient Marine Cpl. Steven Schulz.

Showcasing its professionalism at halftime was the Marine Corps Silent Drill Team, which marched on the field and demonstrated its rifle skills without uttering a word.

Hall of Famers officiate

clinic 2006 IMA-E Basketball Tournament set Saturday

IMA-E Public Affairs

Joe Mitchell and Peter Webb have been selected to conduct the basketball official's certification clinic at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Training and Development Center in Schwetzingen, Germany, through Saturday.

The yearly clinics prepare garrison officials to officiate games at their installations for Child and Youth Services and other military programs.

During the training, clinic attendees will learn the current basketball rules, points of emphasis and floor mechanics.

The clinic will culminate with a written test and practical examination which consists of officiating during the 2006 IMA-E MWR Basketball Tournament at the Patton Barracks Gym in Heidelberg, Germany.

The tournament begins Saturday at 9 am.

Joe Mitchell of Lanham, Maryland, has 34 years of experience officiating basketball.

He has worked the McDonald Capital Classic and Big East Conference.

Mitchell was inducted into the Official's Hall of Fame in 1999 and is currently the Chief Observer for the Mid-eastern Athletic Conference.

Peter Webb was recently inducted into the National Federation of High School Hall of Fame and is the basketball commissioner for the state of Maine.

For information on becoming a sports official, contact Tom Hlavacek at the MWR Training and Development Center at DSN 379-7693 or Jim Mattingly at the IMA-Europe Sports Office at DSN 370-7944.

Hohenfels on the move

Courtesy photos



The Hohenfels Cross Country team receives final instructions before walking the course that they will run Sept. 16. The team is made up of 10 middle and high school students who have all been running exceptionally well this year, according to Hohenfels Athletic Director Kathlene Clemmons.



Hohenfels High School football team members watch the field during their Sept. 16 homegame against Giessen. The team, defending their Division III USAREUR title, won 42-6. "They have everybody after them," said Hohenfels' Athletic Director Kathlene Clemmons.

Despite rising child care costs, local discounts still available

Continued From Page 1

\$196 per month for full-day care and \$120 per month for before- and after-school care.

Category I full-day child-care fees are predetermined by the Department of Army, so lower-income families pay the same fee no matter where they are stationed.

Fee increases will range from 2 to 16 percent for full-day monthly child care, and will be 6 to 10 percent for before- and after-school care for all other Family Income Categories II-VI (\$28,001 to \$70,000+ in total family income.)

For full-day, this amounts to a \$10-\$36 increase per month for nearly half of CYS customers in the middle-income categories (\$28,001 to \$55,000). These same families will see only a \$10-22 increase for before- and after-school care.

The greatest fee increase is actually less than \$.50 an hour, for Category V and VI families (\$55,001 to \$70,000+ in family income) who will see full-day rates rise \$64 and \$78.

Payne said the garrison will continue to offer the multiple child discounts, parent and teen volunteer discount, and the head coach discount.

“There is also a 10 percent discount built into School Age fees when parents choose the Before and After School option,” she said.

“Children who are 6-10 years of age and registered with CYS may participate in five free hours of open recreation each month at no additional cost. We also offer 10 free hours of care each month for children of soldiers E-4 and below and five free hours per month for children of deployed soldiers of any rank, said Payne.

CYS sports and fitness team fees are based on the costs to run each sport, and all patrons pay the same fees. Fees for soccer, flag football, cheerleading, baseball, softball, basketball and field hockey will go up \$6; tackle football, lacrosse and roller hockey programs will go up \$24. Fees for sports such as competitive swimming and ice hockey are determined locally.

The annual CYS registration fee of \$18 per child, or \$40 maximum per family, is standard Army-wide.

In reality, CYS fees generally cover less than half the actual cost of Army child care provided to each child. Fees paid by families cover only the costs for salaries and training of 75 percent of the staff who work directly with children and youth; appropriated funds provided by Congress pay for all other costs, such as facilities, administration, equipment, supplies and food.

Because all Army child development and school-age centers in Europe continually work to maintain accreditation standards, Army families are assured of getting the best quality child care at a significantly reduced cost.

In comparison, fewer than 10 percent of off-post centers in the United States are accredited, and equivalent care is significantly higher.

“While no one likes to pay more, the services we are providing exceed most equivalent services provided in the civilian economy, and in those occasions where it does not, it is provided at significantly reduced costs,” said Garrison Grafenwoehr Commander Col. Brian Boyle.

He said the garrison has increased the number of FCC homes because of customer needs and will continue to work with families to develop additional FCC homes.

With CYS fees in Europe equal to or below many stateside posts, many newly-arrived families here will be happy to see that child-care costs are actually less than where they were previously stationed.

For example, fees for all income categories in Europe are less than those at Fort Lewis, Wash., so 2d Stryker Cavalry Regiment families arriving in Vilseck, will now save from \$16 to \$62 a month on full-day child care and \$30 to \$44 for before- and after-school care.

Army families in Europe pay considerably less for child care, particularly infant care, than the average family in the United States. An April 2006 report in “USA Today” stated that—according to a National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies study—while costs varied considerably by state, annual costs for full-time infant care can run as high as \$13,480 (triple the average for CYS infant care in IMA-EURO).

The average U.S. family spends almost 11 percent of their household income on infant care, greater than the IMA-EURO average of 10 percent. The NACCRA report also stated that annual infant child-care costs are actually higher than annual household food costs in the U.S.

Famed Easy Co. vets visit with 2SCR troops

Surviving ‘Band’ signs autographs for Soldiers

Continued From Page 1

Headquarters and Headquarters Company. “Just to hear about how different it was then from today, how modernized everything has become since then. It makes me so grateful.”

Eighty-five-year-old Guth, in particular, enjoyed checking out the modern equipment.

“Take it easy guys. I’ll see you in Iraq,” he joked as he climbed aboard a Stryker. “I’ve gotta’ get them to give me one of these things when we leave here,” he said.

On a more serious note, Guth told the Soldiers why he and his comrades were uncomfortable being in the limelight since the release of the “Band of Brothers” series.

“We got out of the service,” he explained. “Most of us went to school and started families. Then in ’92, Ambrose wrote his book.

“We didn’t expect anything, and then the movie came out,” said Guth. “It’s a little overwhelming and a little disheartening because we were just doing our jobs,” said Guth.

Bill Maynard agreed with Guth’s sentiment, but said that the publicity and recognition that came after the book and mini-series was well worth it because it gave him the rare opportunity of connecting with Soldiers and families like those stationed at Vilseck.

“You’re a hell of a group of guys!” said Maynard to the 2SCR Soldiers.



Easy Company vet Amos “Buck” Taylor signs an autograph for 2SCR’s Spc. Thomas Mayberry.

Flu shots

Bavarian Ski Club kicks off 2006 season this weekend, still seeking new members

Continued From Page 1

indoors with others. Those are conditions that make the spread of respiratory disease, such as the flu, more likely,” he said.

In addition to getting the flu vaccine, Corr also urges everyone to take other precautions, such as washing hands frequently, covering up coughs and sneezes, and keeping up a healthy diet.

Military treatment facilities will make announcements in local media concerning the specifics of their programs.

Continued From Page 1

“It’s more affordable (than average ski trips), and it’s just so convenient to get on the bus and have everything planned and taken care of for you,” said Mulkeen. “The club has always been welcoming to families.”

But the club is not just open to families. Couples, single Soldiers, advanced and beginner skiers, and even non-skiers are welcome.

Whether members are looking for après-ski activities or something to do other than ski, the neighboring areas offer great shopping, restaurants, nightlife, and rustic charm typical of Alpine resorts.

“Some people do one or two runs and then the rest of the day they just party. Some don’t ski at all and just relax,” said Neaverth. “It’s whatever you want to do, go for it.”

Neaverth said the ski club is more than a hobby group. It is a gathering of friends who enjoy getting together year round.

A 10-year member, Gabriele Zimmerman said the club enjoys summer activities aside from the regular meetings and holiday parties.

“The best thing about the club,” she said, “is to be able to meet and get to know new people, especially when you are new in this area.”

Anyone interested in joining the club should contact Leigh-Ann De Jong at DSN 475-7451 / CIV 09641-837451 or attend a meeting.

Meetings are held the third Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm at Vilseck’s Yesterday’s club. Cost to join is \$25.

Most trips are priced at less than 300 Euro, including bus ride with drinks and sandwiches, hotel fare with breakfast and lift tickets. Children and non-skiers receive a discount.

- 2006/2007 Ski Trips**
- Oct. 6-9 Soelden, Austria
 - Nov. 10-12 Kaprun, Austria
 - Nov. 22-26 Stubai, Austria
 - Jan. 12-15 Kronplatz, Italy
 - Feb. 9-12 Bad Gastein, Austria
 - March 16-18 Dachstein, Austria

Study examines why women more likely to leave military

by STEVEN DONALD SMITH
American Forces Press Service

Female military doctors, lawyers, and chaplains are more likely than their male counterparts to leave the military after serving five to eight years.

The Defense Department Advisory Committee on Women in the Services wants to know why.

By examining these three career fields, the committee hopes to understand why female service members in general have such higher rates of military separation, Mary Nelson, chairwoman of DACOWITS, told the Pentagon Channel Aug. 25.

Nelson said it’s important to retain more women, and understanding why they leave may help to accomplish this.

The main reason women are getting out after five to eight years of service is to start a family, she said.

“They don’t want to have a 2-week-old (baby) and have to be deployed.”

A possible solution to the problem, she said, is “on-off-ramps,” or points at which service members can take a leave of absence from the military.

While calling the concept a good idea, Nelson acknowledged that it comes with some issues.

“If we have these off-ramps, where people can get out and take a two-year leave, then it becomes an issue of when they come back, where are they?” she said.

“Are they still with the same class they entered with? If so, then they’re at a great disadvantage and aren’t going to be promoted through the ranks. So as they come back, adjustments have to be made to their date of rank so that they’re competitive again.”

It seems like we have provisions for people to leave for educational reasons, then come back in, so maybe this could be extended,” she added.

Because survey data never tell the full story, DACOWITS members go to installations and hold focus groups among female service members, Nelson said.

Committee members ask a broad range of questions to help them understand the problems these women face and their reasons for wanting to leave the military.

When meeting with these women, the committee members are eager to illicit possible solutions from the women, Nelson said.

The committee’s 2005 report studied issues related to work and life balance and found that most women put their families first.

“They’re making the decision based on their family as well as their deep desire to serve their country,” she said.

For example, the committee concluded that female service members garner great satisfaction from overseas assignments, but consider their families’ needs first, Nelson said.

“I think that really was the focus of our report last year,” she said. “How can people balance their work, their career, and the needs of their families?”

Numerous high-ranking military officials of both genders stressed to Nelson that women offer something the military wouldn’t have without them.

“They offer a different perspective. They offer a different way of looking at things, a different way of communicating, a different way of gathering points of view and getting consensus,” she said.

“It’s a different way of doing things, and it’s something the military members I’ve talked to feel very strongly that the military needs.”

The Defense Department Advisory Committee on Women in the Services was established in 1951 by then-Secretary of Defense George Marshall.

The committee is composed of civilian women and men appointed by the defense secretary to provide recommendations relating to the recruitment and retention, treatment, employment, integration, and well-being of highly qualified professional women in the armed forces.

How can people balance their work, their career, and the needs of their families?

Mary Nelson
DACOWITS chairwoman